

Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 149, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 165

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 165, a bill to extend and enhance prohibitions and limitations with respect to the transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and for other purposes.

S. 167

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 167, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of annual evaluations of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 167, *supra*.

S. 184

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 184, a bill to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to require background checks before foster care placements are ordered in tribal court proceedings, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 26

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 26, a resolution commending Pope Francis for his leadership in helping to secure the release of Alan Gross and for working with the Governments of the United States and Cuba to achieve a more positive relationship.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3 proposed to S. 1, a bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

AMENDMENT NO. 17

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware

(Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 17 proposed to S. 1, a bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

AMENDMENT NO. 23

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 23 intended to be proposed to S. 1, a bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

AMENDMENT NO. 24

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 24 intended to be proposed to S. 1, a bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

AMENDMENT NO. 26

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 26 intended to be proposed to S. 1, a bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

AMENDMENT NO. 27

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 27 intended to be proposed to S. 1, a bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

AMENDMENT NO. 28

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 28 intended to be proposed to S. 1, a bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

AMENDMENT NO. 29

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 29 proposed to S. 1, a bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

AMENDMENT NO. 44

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 44 intended to be proposed to S. 1, a bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

AMENDMENT NO. 49

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 49 intended to be proposed to S. 1, a bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 194. A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to clarify the rule allowing discharge as a nonpriority claim of governmental claims arising

from the disposition of farm assets under chapter 12 bankruptcies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce, along with Senator FRANKEN, the Family Farmer Bankruptcy Clarification Act of 2015. I thank Senator FRANKEN for his work on this bill and for his support. We introduced identical legislation in the 113th Congress and similar legislation in the 112 Congress. Unfortunately, the Senate has never had the opportunity to consider these bills and the problem we seek to correct.

This bipartisan bill addresses the 2012 United States Supreme Court case *Hall v. United States*. In a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court ruled that a provision I inserted into the 2005 Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act didn't accomplish what we in Congress intended. The Family Farmer Bankruptcy Clarification Act of 2015 corrects this and clarifies that bankrupt family farmers reorganizing their debts are able to treat capital gains taxes owed to a governmental unit, arising from the sale of farm assets during a bankruptcy, as general unsecured claims. This bill will remove the Internal Revenue Service's veto power over a bankruptcy reorganization plan's confirmation, giving the family farmer a chance to reorganize successfully.

In 1986 Congress enacted Chapter 12 of the Bankruptcy Code to provide a specialized bankruptcy process for family farmers. In 2005 Chapter 12 was made permanent. Between 1986 and 2005 we learned what aspects worked and didn't work for family farmers reorganizing in bankruptcy. One problematic area was where a family farmer needed to sell assets in order to generate cash for the reorganization. Specifically, a family farmer would have to sell portions of the farm to generate cash to fund a reorganization plan so that the creditors could receive payment. Unfortunately, in situations like this, the family farmer is selling land that has been owned for a very long time, with a very low cost basis. Thus, when the land is sold, the family farmer is hit with a substantial capital gains tax, which is owed to the Internal Revenue Service.

Under the Bankruptcy Code, taxes owed to the Internal Revenue Service receive priority treatment. Holders of priority claims must receive payment in full, unless the claim holder agrees to be treated differently. This creates problems for the family farmer who needs the cash to pay creditors to reorganize. However, since the Internal Revenue Service has the ability to require full payment, they hold veto power over a plan's confirmation, which means in many instances the plan will not be confirmed. This does not make sense if the goal is to give the family farmer a fresh start. Thus, in 2005 Congress said that in these limited situations, the taxes owed to the Internal Revenue Service would be

stripped of their priority and treated as general unsecured debt. This removed the government's veto power over plan confirmation and paved the way for family farmers to reorganize.

Unfortunately, in *Hall v. United States*, the Supreme Court ruled that despite Congress's express goal of helping family farmers, the language inserted into the Bankruptcy Code in 2005 conflicted with the Tax Code. The *Hall* case was one of statutory interpretation. There is no question what Congress was trying to do; rather, did Congress use the correct language? My goal, along with others at the time, was to relieve family farmers from having their reorganization plans fail because of huge tax liabilities to the Federal Government. Justice Breyer noted this in the dissent: "Congress was concerned about the effect on the farmer of collecting capital gains tax debts that arose during (and were connected with) the Chapter 12 proceedings themselves. . . . The majority does not deny the importance of Congress' objective. Rather, it feels compelled to hold that Congress put the Amendment in the wrong place." *Hall v. United States*, 132 S.Ct. 1882, 1897, 2012.

As a result of the *Hall* case, family farmers facing bankruptcy now find themselves caught in a tough spot. The rules have now been changed and must be corrected in order to provide certainty and clarity in the law. The Family Farmer Bankruptcy Clarification Act of 2015 will provide the clarity needed to help family farmers.

This bill adds a new section 1232 to title 11 of the United States Code. This new section, along with other conforming changes to the Bankruptcy Code, gives guidance and certainty to debtors, practitioners, and courts as to how these claims are to be treated during bankruptcy. I am pleased that the bill we are introducing today will help family farmers who are facing hard times. The Family Farmer Bankruptcy Clarification Act of 2015 ensures that what Congress sought to do in 2005 actually occurs. In the wake of the *Hall* decision, this bill is needed in order to help family farmers reorganize successfully.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 194

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Family Farmer Bankruptcy Clarification Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF RULE ALLOWING DISCHARGE TO GOVERNMENTAL CLAIMS ARISING FROM THE DISPOSITION OF FARM ASSETS UNDER CHAPTER 12 BANKRUPTCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 12 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 1232. Claim by a governmental unit based on the disposition of property used in a farming operation

"(a) Any unsecured claim of a governmental unit against the debtor or the estate that arises before the filing of the petition, or that arises after the filing of the petition and before the debtor's discharge under section 1228, as a result of the sale, transfer, exchange, or other disposition of any property used in the debtor's farming operation—

"(1) shall be treated as an unsecured claim arising before the date on which the petition is filed;

"(2) shall not be entitled to priority under section 507;

"(3) shall be provided for under a plan; and

"(4) shall be discharged in accordance with section 1228.

"(b) For purposes of applying sections 1225(a)(4), 1228(b)(2), and 1229(b)(1) to a claim described in subsection (a) of this section, the amount that would be paid on such claim if the estate of the debtor were liquidated in a case under chapter 7 of this title shall be the amount that would be paid by the estate in a chapter 7 case if the claim were an unsecured claim arising before the date on which the petition was filed and were not entitled to priority under section 507.

"(c) For purposes of applying sections 523(a), 1228(a)(2), and 1228(c)(2) to a claim described in subsection (a) of this section, the claim shall not be treated as a claim of a kind specified in section 523(a)(1).

"(d)(1) A governmental unit may file a proof of claim for a claim described in subsection (a) that arises after the date on which the petition is filed.

"(2) If a debtor files a tax return after the filing of the petition for a period in which a claim described in subsection (a) arises, and the claim relates to the tax return, the debtor or shall serve notice of the claim on the governmental unit charged with the responsibility for the collection of the tax at the address and in the manner designated in section 505(b)(1). Notice under this paragraph shall state that the debtor has filed a petition under this chapter, state the name and location of the court in which the case under this chapter is pending, state the amount of the claim, and include a copy of the filed tax return and documentation supporting the calculation of the claim.

"(3) If notice of a claim has been served on the governmental unit in accordance with paragraph (2), the governmental unit may file a proof of claim not later than 180 days after the date on which such notice was served. If the governmental unit has not filed a timely proof of the claim, the debtor or trustee may file proof of the claim that is consistent with the notice served under paragraph (2). If a proof of claim is filed by the debtor or trustee under this paragraph, the governmental unit may not amend the proof of claim.

"(4) A claim filed under this subsection shall be determined and shall be allowed under subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 502, or disallowed under subsection (d) or (e) of section 502, in the same manner as if the claim had arisen immediately before the date of the filing of the petition."

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 12 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in section 1222(a)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking "unless—" and all that follows through "the holder" and inserting "unless the holder";

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking "and" at the end;

(iii) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting ";; and"; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

"(5) subject to section 1232, provide for the treatment of any claim by a governmental unit of a kind described in section 1232(a).";

(B) in section 1228—

(i) in subsection (a)—

(I) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)— (aa) by inserting a comma after "all debts provided for by the plan"; and

(bb) by inserting a comma after "allowed under section 503 of this title"; and

(II) in paragraph (2), by striking "the kind" and all that follows and inserting "a kind specified in section 523(a) of this title, except as provided in section 1232(c)."; and

(ii) in subsection (c)(2), by inserting ";; except as provided in section 1232(c)" before the period at the end; and

(C) in section 1229(a)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking "or" at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ";; or"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) provide for the payment of a claim described in section 1232(a) that arose after the date on which the petition was filed."

(2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for subchapter II of chapter 12 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"1232. Claim by a governmental unit based on the disposition of property used in a farming operation."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to any bankruptcy case that—

(1) is pending on the date of enactment of this Act and relating to which an order of discharge under section 1228 of title 11, United States Code, has not been entered; or

(2) commences on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. REID:

S. 196. A bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain Federal land in Garden Valley, Nevada; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 196

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Garden Valley Withdrawal Act".

SEC. 2. GARDEN VALLEY, NEVADA, WITHDRAWAL.

Subject to valid existing rights in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, the approximately 805,100 acres of Federal land generally depicted on the map entitled "Garden Valley Withdrawal Area" and dated July 11, 2014, is withdrawn from—

(1) entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 198. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to inverted corporations; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 198

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Stop Corporate Inversions Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. MODIFICATIONS TO RULES RELATING TO INVERTED CORPORATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 7874 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(b) INVERTED CORPORATIONS TREATED AS DOMESTIC CORPORATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 7701(a)(4), a foreign corporation shall be treated for purposes of this title as a domestic corporation if—

“(A) such corporation would be a surrogate foreign corporation if subsection (a)(2) were applied by substituting ‘80 percent’ for ‘60 percent’, or

“(B) such corporation is an inverted domestic corporation.

“(2) INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATION.—For purposes of this subsection, a foreign corporation shall be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if, pursuant to a plan (or a series of related transactions)—

“(A) the entity completes after May 8, 2014, the direct or indirect acquisition of—

“(i) substantially all of the properties held directly or indirectly by a domestic corporation, or

“(ii) substantially all of the assets of, or substantially all of the properties constituting a trade or business of, a domestic partnership, and

“(B) after the acquisition, either—

“(i) more than 50 percent of the stock (by vote or value) of the entity is held—

“(I) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic corporation, by former shareholders of the domestic corporation by reason of holding stock in the domestic corporation, or

“(II) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic partnership, by former partners of the domestic partnership by reason of holding a capital or profits interest in the domestic partnership, or

“(ii) the management and control of the expanded affiliated group which includes the entity occurs, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States, and such expanded affiliated group has significant domestic business activities.

“(3) EXCEPTION FOR CORPORATIONS WITH SUBSTANTIAL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRY OF ORGANIZATION.—A foreign corporation described in paragraph (2) shall not be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if after the acquisition the expanded affiliated group which includes the entity has substantial business activities in the foreign country in which or under the law of which the entity is created or organized when compared to the total business activities of such expanded affiliated group. For purposes of subsection (a)(2)(B)(iii) and the preceding sentence, the term ‘substantial business activities’ shall have the meaning given such term under regulations in effect on May 8, 2014, except that the Secretary may issue regulations increasing the threshold percent in any of the tests under such regulations for determining if business activities constitute substantial business activities for purposes of this paragraph.

“(4) MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(B)(ii)—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prescribe regulations for purposes of determining cases in which the management and control of an expanded affiliated group is to be treated as occurring, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States. The regulations prescribed under the preceding sentence shall apply to periods after May 8, 2014.

“(B) EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT.—Such regulations shall provide that the management and control of an expanded affiliated group shall be treated as occurring, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States if substantially all of the executive officers and senior management of the expanded affiliated group who exercise day-to-day responsibility for making decisions involving strategic, financial, and operational policies of the expanded affiliated group are based or primarily located within the United States. Individuals who in fact exercise such day-to-day responsibilities shall be treated as executive officers and senior management regardless of their title.

“(5) SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(B)(ii), an expanded affiliated group has significant domestic business activities if at least 25 percent of—

“(A) the employees of the group are based in the United States,

“(B) the employee compensation incurred by the group is incurred with respect to employees based in the United States,

“(C) the assets of the group are located in the United States, or

“(D) the income of the group is derived in the United States,

determined in the same manner as such determinations are made for purposes of determining substantial business activities under regulations referred to in paragraph (3) as in effect on May 8, 2014, but applied by treating all references in such regulations to ‘foreign country’ and ‘relevant foreign country’ as references to ‘the United States’. The Secretary may issue regulations decreasing the threshold percent in any of the tests under such regulations for determining if business activities constitute significant domestic business activities for purposes of this paragraph.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Clause (i) of section 7874(a)(2)(B) of such Code is amended by striking “after March 4, 2003,” and inserting “after March 4, 2003, and before May 9, 2014.”

(2) Subsection (c) of section 7874 of such Code is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “subsection (a)(2)(B)(ii)” and inserting “subsections (a)(2)(B)(i) and (b)(2)(B)(i)”, and

(ii) by inserting “or (b)(2)(A)” after “(a)(2)(B)(i)” in subparagraph (B),

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “or (b)(2)(B)(i), as the case may be,” after “(a)(2)(B)(ii)”,

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking “subsection (a)(2)(B)(ii)” and inserting “subsections (a)(2)(B)(i) and (b)(2)(B)(i)”, and

(D) in paragraph (6), by inserting “or inverted domestic corporation, as the case may be,” after “surrogate foreign corporation”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years ending after May 8, 2014.

By Mr. REID:

S. 199. A bill to establish the Gold Butte National Conservation Area in Clark County, Nevada, in order to conserve, protect, and enhance the cultural, archaeological, natural, wilderness, scientific, geological, historical, biological, wildlife, educational, and

scenic resources of the area, to designate wilderness area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 199

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Gold Butte National Conservation Area Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings.

Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—GOLD BUTTE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

Sec. 101. Establishment of Gold Butte National Conservation Area.

Sec. 102. Management of Conservation Area.

Sec. 103. General provisions.

Sec. 104. Gold Butte National Conservation Area Advisory Council.

TITLE II—DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS IN CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

Sec. 201. Findings.

Sec. 202. Additions to National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sec. 203. Administration.

Sec. 204. Adjacent management.

Sec. 205. Military, law enforcement, and emergency overflights.

Sec. 206. Release of wilderness study areas.

Sec. 207. Native American cultural and religious uses.

Sec. 208. Wildlife management.

Sec. 209. Wildfire, insect, and disease management.

Sec. 210. Climatological data collection.

Sec. 211. National Park System land.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Relationship to Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

Sec. 302. Visitor center, research, and interpretation.

Sec. 303. Termination of withdrawal of Bureau of Land Management land.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the public land in southeastern Nevada generally known as “Gold Butte” is recognized for outstanding—

(A) scenic values;

(B) natural resources, including critical habitat, sensitive species, wildlife, desert tortoise habitat, and geology;

(C) historic resources, including historic mining, ranching and other western cultures, and pioneer activities; and

(D) cultural resources, including evidence of prehistoric habitation and rock art;

(2) Gold Butte has become a destination for diverse recreation opportunities, including camping, hiking, hunting, motorized recreation, and sightseeing;

(3) Gold Butte draws visitors from throughout the United States;

(4) Gold Butte provides important economic benefits to Mesquite and other nearby communities;

(5) inclusion of the Gold Butte National Conservation Area in the National Landscape Conservation System would provide increased opportunities for—

(A) interpretation of the diverse values of the area for the visiting public; and

(B) education and community outreach in the region; and

(6) designation of Gold Butte as a National Conservation Area will permanently protect the scenic, biological, natural, historical, scientific, paleontological, recreational, ecological, wilderness, and cultural resources within the area.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ADVISORY COUNCIL.**—The term “Advisory Council” means the Gold Butte National Conservation Area Advisory Council established under section 104(a).

(2) **CONSERVATION AREA.**—The term “Conservation Area” means the Gold Butte National Conservation Area established by section 101(a).

(3) **COUNTY.**—The term “County” means Clark County, Nevada.

(4) **DESIGNATED ROUTE.**—The term “designated route” means a road that is designated as open by the Route Designations for Selected Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Located in the Northeast Portion of the Las Vegas BLM District Environmental Assessment, NV-052-2006-0433.

(5) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—The term “management plan” means the management plan for the Conservation Area developed under section 102(b).

(6) **MAP.**—The term “Map” means the map entitled “Gold Butte National Conservation Area” and dated May 23, 2013.

(7) **PUBLIC LAND.**—The term “public land” has the meaning given the term “public lands” in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702).

(8) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(9) **STATE.**—The term “State” means the State of Nevada.

(10) **WILDERNESS AREA.**—The term “wilderness area” means a wilderness areas designated by section 202(a).

TITLE I—GOLD BUTTE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT OF GOLD BUTTE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established the Gold Butte National Conservation Area in the State.

(b) **AREA INCLUDED.**—The Conservation Area shall consist of approximately 348,515 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the County, as generally depicted on the Map.

(c) **MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and legal description of the Conservation Area with the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(2) **EFFECT.**—The map and legal description prepared under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary may correct minor errors in the map or legal description.

(3) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—A copy of the map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service.

SEC. 102. MANAGEMENT OF CONSERVATION AREA.

(a) **PURPOSES.**—In accordance with this title, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and other applicable laws, the Secretary shall manage the Conservation Area in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances the scenic, biological, natural, historical, scientific, paleontological, recreational, ecological, wilderness, and cultural resources of the Conservation Area.

(b) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—

(1) **PLAN REQUIRED.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a management plan for the long-term protection and management of the Conservation Area.

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary shall prepare the management plan in consultation with the State, local and tribal government entities, the Advisory Council, and the public.

(3) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The management plan shall—

(A) describe the appropriate uses and management of the Conservation Area; and

(B) include a recommendation on interpretive and educational materials regarding the cultural and biological resources of the region within which the Conservation Area is located.

(4) **INCORPORATION OF ROUTE DESIGNATIONS.**—The management plan shall incorporate the decisions in the Route Designations for Selected Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Located in the Northeast Portion of the Las Vegas BLM District Environmental Assessment, NV-052-2006-0433.

(c) **USES.**—The Secretary shall allow only such uses of the Conservation Area that the Secretary determines would further the purpose of the Conservation Area described in subsection (a).

(d) **INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LAND AND INTERESTS.**—Any land or interests in land located within the boundary of the Conservation Area that is acquired by the United States after the date of enactment of this Act shall become part of the Conservation Area and be managed as provided in subsection (a).

(e) **MOTORIZED VEHICLES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except in cases in which motorized vehicles are needed for administrative purposes or to respond to an emergency, the use of motorized vehicles shall be permitted only on designated routes.

(2) **MONITORING AND EVALUATION.**—The Secretary shall annually—

(A) assess the effects of the use of motorized vehicles on designated routes; and

(B) in consultation with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, assess the effects of designated routes on wildlife and wildlife habitat to minimize environmental impacts and prevent damage to cultural and historical resources from the use of designated routes.

(3) **MANAGEMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall manage designated routes in a manner that—

(i) is consistent with motorized and mechanized use of the designated routes that is authorized on the date of the enactment of this Act;

(ii) ensures the safety of the people that use the designated routes;

(iii) does not damage sensitive habitat or cultural or historical resources; and

(iv) provides for adaptive management of resources and restoration of damaged habitat or resources.

(B) **REROUTING.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—A designated route may be temporarily closed or rerouted if the Secretary, in consultation with the State, the County, and the Advisory Council, subject to subparagraph (C), determines that—

(I) the designated route is having an adverse impact on—

- (aa) sensitive habitat;
- (bb) natural resources;
- (cc) cultural resources; or
- (dd) historical resources;

(II) the designated route threatens public safety;

(III) temporary closure of the designated route is necessary to repair—

- (aa) the designated route; or

(bb) resource damage; or

(IV) modification of the designated route would not significantly affect access within the Conservation Area.

(ii) **PRIORITY.**—If the Secretary determines that the rerouting of a designated route is necessary under clause (i), the Secretary may give priority to existing roads designated as closed.

(iii) **DURATION.**—A designated route that is temporarily closed under clause (i) shall remain closed only until the date on which the resource or public safety issue that led to the temporary closure has been resolved.

(C) **NOTICE.**—The Secretary shall provide information to the public regarding any designated routes that are open, have been rerouted, or are temporarily closed through—

(i) use of appropriate signage within the Conservation Area; and

(ii) the distribution of maps, safety education materials, law enforcement, and other information considered to be appropriate by the Secretary.

(4) **NO EFFECT ON NON-FEDERAL LAND OR INTERESTS IN NON-FEDERAL LAND.**—Nothing in this section affects ownership, management, or other rights relating to non-Federal land or interests in non-Federal land.

(5) **MAP ON FILE.**—The Secretary shall keep a current map on file at the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(6) **ROAD CONSTRUCTION.**—Except as necessary for administrative purposes or to respond to an emergency, the Secretary shall not construct any permanent or temporary road within the Conservation Area after the date of enactment of this Act.

(f) **NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM.**—The Conservation Area shall be administered as a component of the National Landscape Conservation System.

(g) **HUNTING, FISHING, AND TRAPPING.**—Nothing in this title affects the jurisdiction of the State with respect to fish and wildlife, including hunting, fishing, and trapping in the Conservation Area.

SEC. 103. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) **NO BUFFER ZONES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The establishment of the Conservation Area shall not create an express or implied protective perimeter or buffer zone around the Conservation Area.

(2) **PRIVATE LAND.**—If the use of, or conduct of an activity on, private land that shares a boundary with the Conservation Area is consistent with applicable law, nothing in this title concerning the establishment of the Conservation Area prohibits or limits the use or conduct of the activity.

(b) **WITHDRAWALS.**—Subject to valid existing rights, all public land within the Conservation Area, including any land or interest in land that is acquired by the United States within the Conservation Area after the date of enactment of this Act, is withdrawn from—

(1) entry, appropriation or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

(c) **SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The establishment of the Conservation Area shall not affect the management status of any area within the boundary of the Conservation Area that is protected under the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

(2) **CONFLICT OF LAWS.**—If there is a conflict between the laws applicable to an area described in paragraph (1) and this title, the more restrictive provision shall control.

SEC. 104. GOLD BUTTE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act,

the Secretary shall establish an advisory council, to be known as the "Gold Butte National Conservation Area Advisory Council".

(b) DUTIES.—The Advisory Council shall advise the Secretary with respect to the preparation and implementation of the management plan.

(c) APPLICABLE LAW.—The Advisory Council shall be subject to—

(1) the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.); and

(2) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(d) MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Council shall include 13 members to be appointed by the Secretary, of whom, to the extent practicable—

(A) 4 members shall be appointed after considering the recommendations of the Mesquite, Nevada, City Council;

(B) 1 member shall be appointed after considering the recommendations of the Bunkerville, Nevada, Town Advisory Board;

(C) 1 member shall be appointed after considering the recommendations of the Moapa Valley, Nevada, Town Advisory Board;

(D) 1 member shall be appointed after considering the recommendations of the Moapa, Nevada, Town Advisory Board;

(E) 1 member shall be appointed after considering the recommendations of the Moapa Band of Paiutes Tribal Council; and

(F) 5 at-large members from the County shall be appointed after considering the recommendations of the County Commission.

(2) SPECIAL APPOINTMENT CONSIDERATIONS.—The at-large members appointed under paragraph (1)(F) shall have backgrounds that reflect—

(A) the purposes for which the Conservation Area was established; and

(B) the interests of persons affected by the planning and management of the Conservation Area.

(3) REPRESENTATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that the membership of the Advisory Council is fairly balanced in terms of the points of view represented and the functions to be performed by the Advisory Council.

(4) INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall appoint the initial members of the Advisory Council in accordance with paragraph (1).

(e) DUTIES OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The Advisory Council shall advise the Secretary with respect to the preparation and implementation of the management plan, including budgetary matters relating to the Conservation Area.

(f) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Advisory Council shall receive no compensation for serving on the Advisory Council.

(g) CHAIRPERSON.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Council shall elect a Chairperson from among the members of the Advisory Council.

(2) TERM.—The term of the Chairperson shall be 3 years.

(h) TERM OF MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The term of a member of the Advisory Council shall be 3 years.

(2) SUCCESSORS.—Notwithstanding the expiration of a 3-year term of a member of the Advisory Council, a member may continue to serve on the Advisory Council until a successor is appointed.

(i) VACANCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the Advisory Council shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(2) APPOINTMENT FOR REMAINDER OF TERM.—A member appointed to fill a vacancy on the Advisory Council shall serve for the remainder of the term for which the predecessor was appointed.

(j) TERMINATION.—The Advisory Council shall terminate not later than 3 years after the date on which the final version of the management plan is published.

TITLE II—DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS IN CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

SEC. 201. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and National Park Service in the County contains unique and spectacular natural, cultural, and historical resources, including—

(A) priceless habitat for numerous species of plants and wildlife;

(B) thousands of acres of land that remain in a natural state; and

(C) numerous sites containing significant cultural and historical artifacts; and

(2) continued preservation of the public land would benefit the County and all of the United States by—

(A) ensuring the conservation of ecologically diverse habitat;

(B) protecting prehistoric cultural resources;

(C) conserving primitive recreational resources; and

(D) protecting air and water quality.

SEC. 202. ADDITIONS TO NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM.

(a) ADDITIONS.—In furtherance of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following public land administered by the National Park Service or the Bureau of Land Management in the County is designated as wilderness and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) VIRGIN PEAK WILDERNESS.—Certain public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 18,296 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Virgin Peak Wilderness".

(2) BLACK RIDGE WILDERNESS.—Certain public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 18,192 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Black Ridge Wilderness".

(3) BITTER RIDGE NORTH WILDERNESS.—Certain public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 15,114 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Bitter Ridge North Wilderness".

(4) BITTER RIDGE SOUTH WILDERNESS.—Certain public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 12,646 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Bitter Ridge Wilderness".

(5) BILLY GOAT PEAK WILDERNESS.—Certain public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 30,460 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Billy Goat Peak Wilderness".

(6) MILLION HILLS WILDERNESS.—Certain public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 24,818 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Million Hills Wilderness".

(7) OVERTON WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, comprising approximately 23,227 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Overton Wilderness".

(8) TWIN SPRINGS WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, comprising approximately 9,684 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Twin Springs Wilderness".

(9) SCANLON WASH WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, comprising approximately 22,826 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Scanlon Wash Wilderness".

(10) HILLER MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, comprising approximately 14,832 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Hiller Mountains Wilderness".

(11) HELL'S KITCHEN WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, comprising approximately 12,439 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Hell's Kitchen Wilderness".

(12) INDIAN HILLS WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, comprising approximately 8,955 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Indian Hills Wilderness".

(13) LIME CANYON WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.—Certain public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 10,069 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which is incorporated in, and shall be managed as part of, the "Lime Canyon Wilderness" designated by section 202(a)(9) of the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 107-282).

(b) NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM.—The wilderness areas administered by the Bureau of Land Management shall be administered as components of the National Landscape Conservation System.

(c) ROAD OFFSET.—The boundary of any portion of a wilderness area that is bordered by a road shall be at least 100 feet away from the centerline of the road so as not to interfere with public access.

(d) LAKE OFFSET.—The boundary of any portion of a wilderness area that is bordered by Lake Mead or the Colorado River shall be 300 feet inland from the high water line.

(e) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and legal description of each wilderness area with the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(2) EFFECT.—Each map and legal description under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map or legal description.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal description under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service.

SEC. 203. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) MANAGEMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights, the wilderness areas shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that—

(1) any reference in that Act to the effective date of that Act shall be considered to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) any reference in that Act to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be considered to be a reference to the Secretary.

(b) INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LAND AND INTERESTS.—Any land or interest in land within the boundaries of a wilderness area that is acquired by the United States after the date of enactment of this Act shall be added to, and administered as part of, the wilderness area within which the acquired land or interest is located.

(c) WATER RIGHTS.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) the land designated as a wilderness area—

(i) is within the Mojave Desert;

(ii) is arid in nature; and

(iii) includes ephemeral streams;

(B) the hydrology of the land designated as a wilderness area is locally characterized by complex flow patterns and alluvial fans with impermanent channels;

(C) the subsurface hydrogeology of the region within which the land designated as a wilderness area is located is characterized by ground water subject to local and regional flow gradients and artesian aquifers;

(D) the land designated as a wilderness area is generally not suitable for use or development of new water resource facilities;

(E) there are no actual or proposed water resource facilities and no opportunities for diversion, storage, or other uses of water occurring outside the land designated as a wilderness area that would adversely affect the wilderness or other values of the land; and

(F) because of the unique nature and hydrology of the desert land designated as a wilderness area and the existence of the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan, it is possible to provide for proper management and protection of the wilderness, perennial springs, and other values of the land in ways different than the methods used in other laws.

(2) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—

(A) NO RESERVATION.—Nothing in this title constitutes an express or implied reservation by the United States of any water or water rights with respect to the land designated as a wilderness area.

(B) STATE RIGHTS.—Nothing in this title affects any water rights in the State existing on the date of enactment of this Act, including any water rights held by the United States.

(C) NO PRECEDENT.—Nothing in this subsection establishes a precedent with regard to any future wilderness designations.

(D) NO EFFECT ON COMPACTS.—Nothing in this title limits, alters, modifies, or amends any of the interstate compacts or equitable apportionment decrees that apportion water among and between the State and other States.

(E) CLARK COUNTY MULTI-SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN.—Nothing in this title limits, alters, modifies, or amends the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan with respect to the land designated as a wilderness area, including specific management actions for the conservation of perennial springs.

(3) NEVADA WATER LAW.—The Secretary shall follow the procedural and substantive requirements of State law in order to obtain and hold any water rights not in existence on the date of enactment of this Act with respect to the land designated as a wilderness area.

(4) NEW PROJECTS.—

(A) DEFINITION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In this paragraph, the term “water resource facility” means irrigation and pumping facilities, reservoirs, water conservation works, aqueducts, canals, ditches, pipelines, wells, hydropower projects, and transmission and other ancillary facilities, and other water diversion, storage, and carriage structures.

(ii) EXCLUSION.—In this paragraph, the term “water resource facility” does not include wildlife guzzlers.

(B) NO LICENSES OR PERMITS.—Except as otherwise provided in this title, on and after the date of enactment of this Act, neither the President nor any other officer, employee, or agent of the United States shall fund, assist, authorize, or issue a license or

permit for the development of any new water resource facility within the land designated as a wilderness area.

(d) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, any Federal land within the wilderness areas, including any land or interest in land that is acquired by the United States within the Conservation Area after the date of enactment of this Act, is withdrawn from—

(1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

SEC. 204. ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.

(a) NO BUFFER ZONES.—Congress does not intend for the designation of land as wilderness areas to lead to the creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones around the wilderness areas.

(b) NONWILDERNESS ACTIVITIES.—The fact that nonwilderness activities or uses can be seen or heard from areas within a wilderness area shall not preclude the conduct of those activities or uses outside the boundary of the wilderness area.

SEC. 205. MILITARY, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND EMERGENCY OVERFLIGHTS.

Nothing in this Act restricts or precludes—

(1) low-level overflights of military, law enforcement, or emergency medical services aircraft over the area designated as wilderness by this Act, including military, law enforcement, or emergency medical services overflights that can be seen or heard within the wilderness area;

(2) flight testing and evaluation; or

(3) the designation or creation of new units of special use airspace, or the establishment of military, law enforcement, or emergency medical services flight training routes, over the wilderness area.

SEC. 206. RELEASE OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that, for the purposes of section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782), the Bureau of Land Management land in any portion of the wilderness study areas located within the Conservation Area not designated as a wilderness area has been adequately studied for wilderness designation.

(b) RELEASE.—Any Bureau of Land Management land described in subsection (a) that is not designated as a wilderness area—

(1) is no longer subject to section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c));

(2) shall be managed in accordance with—

(A) the land management plans adopted under section 202 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1712); and

(B) cooperative conservation agreements in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(3) shall be subject to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

SEC. 207. NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS USES.

Nothing in this title diminishes—

(1) the rights of any Indian tribe; or

(2) tribal rights regarding access to Federal land for tribal activities, including spiritual, cultural, and traditional food-gathering activities.

SEC. 208. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this title affects or diminishes the jurisdiction of the State with respect to fish and wildlife management, including the regulation of hunting, fishing, and trapping, in the wilderness areas.

(b) MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), management activities to maintain or restore fish and wildlife populations and the habitats to support the populations may be carried out within the wilderness areas, if the activities—

(A) are consistent with relevant wilderness management plans; and

(B) are carried out in accordance with appropriate policies, such as those set forth in Appendix B of House Report 101-405.

(2) USE OF MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—The management activities under paragraph (1) may include the occasional and temporary use of motorized vehicles, if the use, as determined by the Secretary, would—

(A) promote healthy, viable, and more naturally distributed wildlife populations that would enhance wilderness values; and

(B) accomplish the purposes described in subparagraph (A) with the minimum impact necessary to reasonably accomplish the task.

(c) EXISTING ACTIVITIES.—Consistent with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)) and in accordance with appropriate policies such as those set forth in Appendix B of House Report 101-405, the State may continue to use aircraft (including helicopters) to survey, capture, transplant, monitor, and provide water for wildlife populations, including bighorn sheep, and feral stock, horses, and burros.

(d) WILDLIFE WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.—Subject to subsection (f), the Secretary shall authorize structures and facilities, including existing structures and facilities, for wildlife water development projects, including guzzlers, in the wilderness areas if—

(1) the structures and facilities will, as determined by the Secretary, enhance wilderness values by promoting healthy, viable and more naturally distributed wildlife populations; and

(2) the visual impacts of the structures and facilities on the wilderness areas can reasonably be minimized.

(e) HUNTING, FISHING, AND TRAPPING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may designate, by regulation, areas in which, and establish periods during which, for reasons of public safety, administration, or compliance with applicable laws, no hunting, fishing, or trapping will be permitted in the wilderness areas.

(2) CONSULTATION.—Except in emergencies, the Secretary shall consult with the appropriate State agency before promulgating regulations under paragraph (1).

(f) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—The State, including a designee of the State, may conduct wildlife management activities in the wilderness areas—

(1) in accordance with the terms and conditions specified in the cooperative agreement between the Secretary and the State entitled “Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of Land Management and the Nevada Department of Wildlife Supplement No. 9” and signed November and December 2003, including any amendments to the cooperative agreement agreed to by the Secretary and the State; and

(2) subject to all applicable laws (including regulations).

SEC. 209. WILDFIRE, INSECT, AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)), the Secretary may take such measures in each wilderness area as the Secretary determines to be necessary for the control of fire, insects, and diseases (including, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, the coordination of the activities with a State or local agency).

(b) EFFECT.—Nothing in this Act precludes a Federal, State, or local agency from conducting wildfire management operations (including operations using aircraft or mechanized equipment) in accordance with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)).

SEC. 210. CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA COLLECTION.

Subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary may require, nothing in this title precludes the installation and maintenance of hydrologic, meteorologic, or climatological collection devices in the wilderness areas if the facilities and access to the facilities are essential to flood warning, flood control, and water reservoir operation activities.

SEC. 211. NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM LAND.

To the extent any of the provisions of this title are in conflict with laws (including regulations) or management policies applicable to Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area designated as a wilderness area, the laws (including regulations) or policies shall control.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. RELATIONSHIP TO CLARK COUNTY MULTI-SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act limits, alters, modifies, or amends the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan with respect to the Conservation Area and the wilderness areas, including the specific management actions contained in the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan for the conservation of perennial springs.

(b) CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT AREAS.—The Secretary shall credit the Conservation Area and the wilderness areas as Conservation Management Areas, as may be required by the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (including amendments to the plan).

(c) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—In developing the management plan, to the extent consistent with this section, the Secretary may incorporate any provision of the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

SEC. 302. VISITOR CENTER, RESEARCH, AND INTERPRETATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, may establish, in cooperation with any other public or private entities that the Secretary may determine to be appropriate, a visitor center and field office in Mesquite, Nevada—

- (1) to serve visitors; and
- (2) to assist in fulfilling the purposes of—

(A) the Lake Mead National Recreation Area;

(B) the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument; and

(C) the Conservation Area.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the visitor center authorized under subsection (a) is designed—

(1) to interpret the scenic, biological, natural, historical, scientific, paleontological, recreational, ecological, wilderness, and cultural resources of each of the areas described in that subsection; and

(2) to serve as an interagency field office for each of the areas described in that subsection.

(c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may, in a manner consistent with this Act, enter into cooperative agreements with the State, the State of Arizona, and any other appropriate institutions and organizations to carry out the purposes of this section.

SEC. 303. TERMINATION OF WITHDRAWAL OF BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND.

(a) TERMINATION OF WITHDRAWAL.—The withdrawal of the parcels of Bureau of Land

Management land described in subsection (b) for use by the Bureau of Reclamation is terminated.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The parcels of land referred to in subsection (a) consist of the Bureau of Land Management land identified on the Map as “Transfer from BOR to BLM”.

(c) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize the legal description of the land reverting to the Bureau of Land Management under subsection (a).

(2) MINOR ERRORS.—The Secretary may correct any minor error in—

- (A) the Map; or
- (B) the legal description.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—The Map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Reclamation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 28—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. THUNE submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 28

Resolved, That, in carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under Rule XXV of such rules, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized from March 1, 2015, through September 30, 2015, October 1, 2015, through September 30, 2016, and October 1, 2016, through February 28, 2017, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2. (a) The expenses of the committee for the period from March 1, 2015, through September 30, 2015, under this resolution shall not exceed \$3,879,581, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended); and

(2) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946).

(b) For the period October 1, 2015, through September 30, 2016, expenses of the committee under this resolution shall not exceed \$6,650,710, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultations, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Leg-

islative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended); and

(2) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946).

(c) For the period October 1, 2016, through February 28, 2017, expenses of the committee under this resolution shall not exceed \$2,771,129, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended); and

(2) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946).

SEC. 3. The committee shall report its findings, together with such recommendations for legislation as it deems advisable, to the Senate at the earliest practicable date, but not later than February 28, 2017.

SEC. 4. Expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee, except that vouchers shall not be required—

(1) for the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;

(2) for the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate;

(3) for the payment of stationary supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationary, United States Senate;

(4) for payments to the Postmaster, United States Senate;

(5) for the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate;

(6) for the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or

(7) for the payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate.

SEC. 5. There are authorized such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committee from March 1, 2015, through September 30, 2015, October 1, 2015, through September 30, 2016, and October 1, 2016, through February 28, 2017.

SENATE RESOLUTION 29—CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN PARIS, OFFERING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS, EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE, AND REAFFIRMING FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. RISCH, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. UDALL, Mr. ISAKSON, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. COONS, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. BURR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 29

Whereas, on January 7, 2015, armed gunmen violently attacked the offices of the French newspaper Charlie Hebdo in Paris,